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POLYMORPHISM IN ALGAE.

In Proc. Linn. Soc. N. So. Wales (1910), G. I. Playfair reports a piece of work on Desmids, which needs to be done, and might be undertaken profitably even by isolated students, for other groups of algæ also. It requires careful observation over long periods of time. He discovers great polymorphism among the Desmids, as among other algæ; and believes that only about 10 per cent of the species are valid, the other 90 per cent being polymorphic forms of them. The degree of polymorphism and the environmental factors influencing it both need to be studied for numerous algæ.

DISINTEGRATION OF MICRO-ORGANISMS.

J. E. Barnard (Jour. R. M. S. Oct. 1911) describes a mechanical method for disintegrating organic cells and obtaining the protoplasmic contents by rupturing the cell walls. This is done by grinding in a metal vessel, by means of rotating balls pressing against the surface of the vessel. Construction is such as to minimize friction with its resulting heat and disintegration of the metal. No abrasive material is used. The object of the apparatus is to get bacterial proteins or other cell constituents, especially the toxins in the case of those bacteria that retain their toxins in large degree within the cells.

REGENERATION OF BLOOD PLATELETS IN DOGS.

Dake (Jour. Exp. Med. Sept. 1911) gives the following results of a series of experiments: (1) Repeated withdrawal, defibrination, and reinjection of blood in dogs reduces the platelets to a very low percentage of their normal number; (2) at such times there is a tendency to bleed profusely; (3) platelets regenerate very rapidly,—about 1-5 of the total in 24 hours. From these results he believes that the platelets are normally produced rapidly, utilized or disintegrated rapidly, and have a brief life-history.

WHITE CORPUSCLES AND DUCTLESS GLANDS IN TOAD.

H. Miettens (Jena. Zeitschr., 1910) finds that the white blood corpuscles arise, in the embryo of the common toad, (1) from unspecialized blood cells which may also give rise to the colored